

Iraq rejects Saudi call for OPEC talks

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraq Friday rejected a call by Saudi Arabia for an emergency OPEC summit to discuss production figures in light of the Gulf crisis. Iraq's oil minister, Iqbal al-Jabbar, said that OPEC oil ministers had recently agreed that the world's oil supply was sufficient, the Iraqi News Agency reported. He said that OPEC ministers agreed at their July meeting that production should be limited due to the oil glut stored in the main consuming nations. Saudi Arabia called Thursday for an emergency OPEC conference to discuss how to deal with the market situation in light of the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. Saudi Oil Minister Fahd bin Abdulaziz said that the kingdom, along with other OPEC members of the group, "have asked for an immediate OPEC meeting to discuss a unified decision on dealing with conditions of the market." The minister, in a short official statement, also denied that the kingdom had notified any of its customers of any cutbacks in oil supply for the month of September. (See related story on page 7)

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King briefs Yemeni leader on U.S. visit

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein telephoned Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh Friday evening. The King briefed the Yemeni leader on the discussions and results of the talks which he held with the U.S. president on the Gulf crisis and the reactions to it in the area.

Nakayama begins Mideast mission

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu sent his foreign minister to the Middle East Friday to determine a new Japanese policy for the region as his government came under pressure to take swift action on the Gulf crisis. Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama left for Saudi Arabia, Oman, Jordan, Egypt and Turkey Friday, two days after Kaifu was originally scheduled to do so, to ask leaders there what they want from Japan. Foreign Ministry spokesman Taiso Watanabe said, "The cabinet will make a final decision (on a Mideast policy) after the foreign minister returns," on Aug. 25, Watanabe told reporters.

Rabat says it has no Gulf initiative

RABAT (AP) — Morocco is not formulating a plan for resolving the Middle East crisis brought on by the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, according to a senior Foreign Ministry official. "There is absolutely no Maghreb plan on this subject," the unidentified official told the Moroccan news agency MAP in a report published Friday. A French news report said Thursday that Moroccan King Hassan II would unveil a "North African solution" Monday calling for the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Palestine Liberation Organisation leader Yasser Arafat reportedly proposed to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein this week that North African countries mediate the Gulf crisis.

Khaddam leaves Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam left Tehran Friday after discussing a joint response to the Gulf crisis with Iranian officials, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported. "In our meetings with Iranian officials we stressed the need for withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the return to power of the legal government," it quoted Khaddam as saying before leaving Tehran. "Iran and Syria believe that they would adopt a joint strategy to promote their goals," Khaddam added, describing his talks in Tehran as positive.

China reiterates opposition to 'big power' role in Gulf

BEIJING (R) — China Friday reiterated its opposition to U.S. military involvement in the Gulf but told a visiting Iraqi official Baghdad should withdraw its troops from Kuwait as soon as possible. Zhu Rongji, a senior Communist Party official, expressed China's position in talks with Adnan Saleh, a senior member of Iraq's ruling Arab Baath Socialist Party, the official New China News Agency said. It was the first reported official contact between China and Iraq since Kuwait was invaded Aug. 2.

Sabah in Paris

PARIS (R) — Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the foreign minister of the toppled emiri government of Kuwait, arrived Friday for talks with the French government which says its second aircraft carrier could sail for the Gulf within 72 hours if necessary.

Europeans ask Arab League's help

TUNIS (R) — The European Community asked the Arab League Friday to help ensure the safety of its nationals in Iraq and Kuwait, diplomats said. They said the request was handed to the Arab League's Deputy Secretary General Adnan Omrane by the ambassadors in Tunis of Italy, France and the Netherlands. It also asked the league to help ensure community nationals were free to leave Iraq.

Bush orders Iraq blockade, but faces U.N. opposition

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The Gulf crisis moved closer to armed conflict Friday after President George Bush ordered U.S. warships to immediately begin using force if necessary to enforce a blockade of Iraq and Kuwait. Iraq said earlier this week that any attempt by U.S. or other forces to stop its flow of oil, food or other goods would be an act of aggression amounting to "flagrant piracy" and would be met with swift retaliation.

"If they (cargo ships) refused to stop, then we will use the measures necessary to ensure that they comply with the sanctions," Defence Department Spokesman Pete Williams said of Bush's order, which took effect at midnight GMT Thursday.

Shipping sources in Saudi Arabia said there were now four tankers waiting off Yanbu. None had been allowed to enter the terminal. They were the two Iraqi vessels, the 357,100-tonne Norwegian supertanker Hansa Vega and the 75,274-tonne Bulgarian vessel Mesta. An official aboard Hansa Vega, contacted by shore-to-ship telephone, said there was no movement at Mu'ajiz, which used to handle a third of Iraq's 2.7 million barrels per day in oil exports before the U.N. ban.

The official said Saudi Arabian

port authorities had rejected the ship's requests to enter.

The last tanker loaded at Mu'ajiz on the day of the invasion. As the Gulf crisis caused by Iraq's take-over of Kuwait entered its third week, Saudi Arabia reportedly turned away another Iraqi tanker trying to break the oil embargo and the U.S.-led multinational force intensified its military buildup and economic embargo.

The Soviet Union also said Friday it was willing to send troops to the Gulf if the United Nations approved a multinational force.

But the effort to squeeze Iraq with a trade embargo appeared to hit a snag in United Nations when Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar said military enforcement of U.N. sanctions against Iraq requires U.N. approval. A special Security Council committee on the embargo was scheduled to meet privately Friday, and Canadian diplomats said they intended to discuss how the committee would monitor compliance beyond official government statements.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney was bound for Riyadh on Friday to visit U.S. troops standing guard in the Saudi desert.

Bush expressed pessimism Thursday that Iraqi forces would end their occupation in Kuwait.

Bush has ordered U.S. naval command to use "the minimum force necessary" to intercept shipments to and from Iraq. That could include

firing across the bow to halt a ship.

Gulf-based shipping executives reported Friday that Saudi authorities refused to permit an Iraqi tanker to take on oil from Iraq's pipeline at the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu. The tanker was identified as the 80,000-ton Al Fao, said the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. Another Iraqi tanker, Al Adasiyah, tried to load up at the terminal Sunday night.

U.N. spokeswoman Nadia Younes said the U.N. chief, despite his opposition to military action, and not withdrawn earlier remarks on the right of nations to act in self-defence, which the U.S. has used as justification for a possible blockade in the Gulf.

Perez de Cuellar said last Monday that a blockade could not be considered a U.N. action but also noted countries had the right to invoke a U.N. Charter provision on self-defence.

But he did not say when actions relating to "self-defence" impinge on actions necessitating U.N. authorisation.

Washington has said that a request from Kuwait for help gave foreign forces the right to intercept ships in the Gulf.

Speaking at a news conference Thursday in Lima, the U.N. chief's comments appeared to come down on the side of numerous Security Council

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Moscow ready to join 'U.N. force' in Gulf Gorbachev warns of chain reaction from Gulf crisis

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev called Friday for a political solution to the Gulf crisis, which he said "threatens a perilous chain reaction endangering the whole world community."

TASS news agency said Gorbachev branded the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as "treacherous" and a blatant violation of international law and the United Nations Charter.

The Soviet Union, until recently Iraq's main arms supplier, would like Arab leaders to resolve the crisis. Moscow stopped weapons deliveries to Baghdad in protest against the invasion.

"For us to react in a different way would have been even more unacceptable as the act of aggression was committed with the help of our weapons, which we agreed to sell to Iraq only to maintain its defence capability," TASS quoted him as saying.

The Soviet leader, on vacation on the Black Sea coast, was speaking to participants in a military exercise in the Odessa district.

"We have witnessed an act of treachery and a blatant violation of international law and the U.N. Charter — in short, a violation of everything the world community now pins its hopes on," Gorbachev said in his strongest condemnation yet of the Iraqi invasion.

"We count on the reason and responsibility of Arab states and their regional organisations. We rely on the powers and rights of the United Nations and the Security Council."

"It is important not only to stop military activities and prevent them from spreading to other countries. It is important to restore respect for international law."

Soviet Foreign Minister

Eduard Shevardnadze said earlier Friday that the Soviet Union would send troops to the Gulf if the United Nations calls for a multinational military force to solve the crisis.

The statements of Gorbachev and Shevardnadze intensified Kremlin pressure on Iraq by bringing the Soviet Union closer to agreeing with the United States on an armed, united front to halt Iraqi "aggression." That could put American and Soviet soldiers on the same side for the first time since World War II.

Shevardnadze said he was discussing the crisis with U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker almost daily by telephone. Two weeks ago, the two men joined in an unprecedented case of superpower cooperation to call for a worldwide arms embargo against Iraq.

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Iraq frees 1,000 PoWs, starts troop withdrawals

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — Iraq freed 1,000 Iranian prisoners of war (PoWs) Friday and began withdrawing troops from Iranian territory in an effort to settle the conflict with its neighbour to focus on the escalating confrontation with the United States.

Iraq announced it was freeing an equal number of Iraqi prisoners Friday to reciprocate for Baghdad's peace initiative.

Initially, Tehran did not say how many Iraqis will be released. But after the arrival of the Iranian PoWs in Iran, Foreign Ministry spokesman Morteza Aram said 1,000 Iraqis will be repatriated Friday.

At 12:30 p.m. the first batch of freed Iranian PoWs arrived in Qasr-e-Shirin, an Iranian border town decorated with the green Islamic republic flag, portraits of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and colourful ribbons and flowers.

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) said a long line of government officials, led by Vice-President Hassan Habibi, welcomed the men, as loudspeakers blared patriotic songs and military tunes.

The director-general of legal affairs at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Akram Al Wiri, said 1,000 Iranian PoWs who had spent the

King congratulates Iraq, Iran

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a telegram to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein congratulating him and the Iraqi people over the peace agreement reached with Iran.

The King said the agreement was made possible by the approach of the president to achieve brotherly cooperation between the Iraqi and Iranian peoples. He expressed hope, trust and deep relations would be built between the two countries to ensure the stability of the region.

The King congratulates the returning prisoners of war and their families.

In another cable to Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the King expressed profound happiness over the agreement reached with the Iraqis and hope that relations between Iraq and Iran would be an example to other Muslims.

The King also expressed hope that a new chapter was being started in the area and that all Muslims would preserve their effort to strengthen stability in the area to the benefit of all residents in the Gulf.

longest period in detention had been brought to Baghdad from Mosul by special train.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) officials had questioned them to check their identity and make sure they wished to return to Iran, he added.

The agency did not give details of the physical condition of the men, some held since the early days of the Gulf war which broke out in September 1980.

But it said several buses and 40 ambulances were waiting to take

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His Majesty King Hussein Thursday holds talks with U.S. President George Bush at Kennebunkport

King's talks with Bush sought to avert conflict — Crown Prince

AMMAN (J.T.) — The main purpose of Thursday's meeting between His Majesty King Hussein and U.S. President George Bush was to avert the possibility of a military conflict in the Gulf through diplomacy, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Friday.

"My perspective is that the two

heads of state publicly restated their positions and then entered into an excellent round of personal diplomacy in which the two gentlemen excelled," the Crown Prince said in an interview with NBC Television.

"I believe certainly that our fears and hopes, the fears of most of the Jordanian government and people that foreign military intervention has raised a great deal of concern in the region as a whole (and) in the Arab and Muslim world will effectively be (shifted) to other means in this phase and if we can get to an Arab and Muslim discussion of the crisis that swept off so much of international concern."

"We obviously have from the very beginning been concerned jointly about how to resolve the Iraq-Kuwait crisis. We adhered to the U.N. Security Council

resolutions and I believe very clearly in terms of approach. Should the U.S. involve itself... with sanctions and military action. The point is that the (issue) is very hot in this part of the world and we sincerely hope that we recognise that we cannot solve the problem by military confrontation."

In answer to a question on international sanctions against Iraq, the Crown Prince said: "I would like to make it very clear that we adhered to all United Nations resolutions. These are United Nations resolutions and not resolutions imposed by individual members. Our approach have been pointed out very clearly to all governments concerned, including the European Council of Ministers yesterday that we are consulting with the secretary general of the U.N. over all aspects of adhering to this resolution, and clearly the plight of all peoples in the region is of concern to us — the Iraqi people, the Kuwaiti people, and let us hope effectively that with all the efforts to (keep) the diplomatic... manoeuvre open..."

Asked what he thought Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is likely to do against the sanctions and the Gulf build-up, the Crown Prince said: "Well, the U.S. envoys have referred to the Iraqi leadership as rational and we believe certainly that shrewdness and rationality have to be involved and built upon. But today we are living in that war of words and anything I say will be taken out of context in a generalised interview. I think as we said to the European Council of Ministers yesterday... that there has to be room for understanding, that capitulation or escalation are not the only solutions at all. There has to be a regional discussion of the issues, the Kuwait-Iraq issue is the issue of course, and then the question of... foreign military intervention which is surely related to this direct crisis and to nothing else."

In reply to a question on Americans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait, the Crown Prince said: "I saw the foreign minister of Iraq speaking... in Baghdad and saying all foreigners will be treated with the utmost care. Of course, the situation is dangerous for all civilians in the Middle East (notably) this country which is in

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Indian foreign minister en route to Baghdad

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Indian External Affairs Minister Inder Singh Gujral arrived here Friday evening en route to Iraq in a mission aimed at securing safe passage for the 170,000 Indian nationals trapped in Kuwait and Iraq following Baghdad's take-over of Kuwait on Aug. 2.

Gujral, who arrived here from Washington on commercial flights via London, said before leaving the U.S. Thursday night that he hoped to help ease the Gulf crisis, which not only threatens a war in the Middle East but also economic and financial calamity for India, which has extensive interests in the Gulf states.

However, Gujral emphasised that he was neither a mediator nor a messenger and implied that India felt it was

not yet time for mediation. "I do not think that bridge is ready to cross... the concerned parties must make up their minds if they want to defuse (the crisis) or not," he told reporters in Washington.

He said his "primary concern" was "to tell (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein to let my people come... and also try to see if better sense can prevail on all sides to see that the situation does not go to the flare point."

Gujral was expected to hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, but it was not clear Friday evening whether His Majesty King Hussein or His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan would receive the Indian minister, who is scheduled to leave for Baghdad Saturday.

Gujral, who assumed the ex-

ternal affairs portfolio for the first time in the government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh after serving in various previous cabinets, met with Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in Moscow and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Washington before arriving here.

In comments in Washington Thursday, the minister underlined the Indian anxiety over the Gulf situation. In light of the geographic and economic links between India and the Gulf, he said, "if God forbid, something unfortunately goes wrong, it affects us in every possible way."

Statistics show that India imports more than half of its petroleum needs of which 50 per cent comes from Kuwait and Iraq. In addition, half of Indian oil purchases from the Soviet Union also flow into India under an exchange

arrangement with Iraq.

The Indian expatriate communities in the Gulf states bring in much needed foreign currency to the country.

About 1,000 Indians passed through Jordan overland from Iraq and Kuwait following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. It is expected that anywhere between 70,000 to 90,000 of the Indians in Iraq and Kuwait might opt to leave the area as tension is mounting in the region, according to reports from the Gulf.

An Indian official said Air India had lined up several flights out of Amman to ferry home Indians reaching the Jordanian capital. In addition, a ship with a carrying capacity of 1,500 passengers is currently near Kuwait and it could be used to evacuate Indians if the Iraqi government grants permission, he said.

Palestinians stage pro-Iraq demonstration at Al Aqsa

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(Agencies) — Muslim worshippers chanted pro-Iraq slogans and reportedly burned American flags after Friday noon prayers at Jerusalem's Al Aqsa Mosque. Israeli police watched from rooftops but did not interfere. The crowd dispersed peacefully after half an hour.

The demonstration was the latest in a series of rallies in the occupied territories in support of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Saddam has always been linked by Palestinians for his firm stand towards the West, but his popularity began to soar after he said earlier this week he would only pull out from Kuwait if the Israelis withdrew from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

About 10,000 worshippers attended the noon prayers at Al Aqsa, which stands side by side with the Dome of the Rock Mosque on Haram Al Sharif.

In his sermon, the Al Aqsa preacher sharply criticised Saudi

Arabia for allowing American forces to land on its territory.

"The Arab leaders are giving Muslim lands to the Americans," he said. "One day all Arab land will be in the hands of the Americans. This land is for Muslims and not for Americans."

Following the prayers, hundreds of worshippers carrying Palestinian and green Islamic flags chanted "with Our soul, with our blood, we'll sacrifice for you, Saddam."

Reporters were confined to a rooftop overlooking parts of Haram Al Sharif, and could not see all the demonstrators.

One of the protesters leaving the compound said American and Israeli flags were burned. The crowd responded by whistling and clapping, said the man.

Leaders of the Palestinian uprising, meanwhile, issued a leaflet condemning pro-Western Arab states and declaring the "full support for the Iraqi people in confronting the imperialists."

The leaflet set aside Saturday as a "day of solidarity with Iraq through demonstrating and marching in every place in our land."

Also Friday, the Israeli Peace Now movement placed ads in newspapers condemning the Palestinian support for Iraq.

"We are disappointed by the enthusiastic Palestinian support for Saddam Hussein," the ad said. "The path of Saddam Hussein is the path of violence, threats and war. Support for him is support for the resolution of disputes between nations through force."

Peace Now and other Israeli left-wing groups in the past have met with Palestinian activists to find common ground for peace talks.

But several leading Israeli doves declared this week they would suspend all meetings until the Palestinians have reversed their pro-Saddam position.

Peace Now, founded in 1978 to urge the then Israeli Prime Minister

Menachem Begin to conclude a peace treaty with Egypt, supports talks with the Palestine Liberation Organisation and its demand for a Palestinian state.

It said cooperation with the 1.75 million Palestinians of the occupied territories was based on an understanding that peace and self-determination would be achieved only through negotiations.

"Support for (Iraq) is support for the resolution of disputes between nations through force," the letter said.

In the Shati refugee camps in the Gaza Strip about 1,500 people flooded the streets after prayers, waving Palestinian flags and pictures of Saddam, reporters said.

Palestinian leaders, trying to limit damage to their image in the West, have issued statements opposing Iraq's occupation of Kuwait but also condemning U.S. efforts to force Saddam to withdraw.

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4,000 gather at Al Nasr to voice support for Iraq

By Ali Masarweh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An enthusiastic nationalist atmosphere prevailed at a pro-Iraq rally held in the municipal square of Jabal Al Nasr Friday afternoon.

The rally, organised by the People's Committee for the Support of Iraq, the Jordanian National Committee and various other local committees, was attended by the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayeb Abdul Raheem.

Up to 4,000 people took part in the rally, chanting nationalist slogans and burning American flags.

"Siding with Iraq (in the current Gulf crisis) means backing the Palestinian uprising (intifada)," Abdul Raheem said.

"Now Syrian, Jordanian, Saudi and Palestinian brothers have to fight shoulder by shoulder against the imperialist enemy in the Gulf," he added.

Abdul Raheem further urged Palestinians living in Jordan not to allow "nationalist sentiments to escalate into fanaticism."

Other speakers also addressed the rally, describing King Fahd of Saudi Arabia as being the "traitor of the holy shrines" and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt as "a broker who served solely the imperialist ambitions of the West."

Mansour Murad, a member of the Lower House of Parliament, also delivered an emotional speech, saying that Iraq's stand had given the Arab Nation a new sense of pride and had preserved Arab honour. "By standing up and revealing (U.S. President George) Bush to be a liar and by resisting Western imperialist aggression against the Arabs, Saddam (Hussein) has picked up Gamal Abdul Nasser's call for Arab unity," Murad said.

He called on the Jordanian government to distribute weapons among the people and provide them with the necessary military training to defend Jordan against any aggression.

The speakers at the rally had to shout into the microphones to make themselves heard as the crowd, composed mainly of residents of the Jabal Al Nasr area, incessantly chanted pro-Iraq and pro-Palestinian slogans.

"What we Arabs need now is a strong, all-uniting leader; Saddam has those qualities and should therefore be supported," an activist at the rally told the Jordan Times.

Similar pro-Iraq rallies were held in various other Jordanian towns and cities and more are expected to be held during the coming days.

Egyptian beef-up boosts Arab contingent to 6,000

NICOSIA (R) — The 2,000 Egyptian troops flown to Saudi Arabia Thursday bring the foreign Arab contingent in the multinational force defending the kingdom to 6,000.

Egypt, with 5,000 men and Morocco with 1,000, are part of a Gulf force eventually expected to top 125,000 and backed by 500 warplanes and 70 warships.

They will join a Saudi force of 66,000 men and some 180 combat aircraft confronting an estimated 150,000 to 200,000 Iraqi troops with hundreds of tanks and warplanes in Kuwait.

Iraq has a million men under arms with 5,500 main battle tanks and over 500 combat jets.

Baghdad's redeployment of troops from its eastern flank with Iran, which began Friday, could lead to a significant increase in the numbers facing Saudi Arabia.

The following is a breakdown of foreign forces in or committed to the defence of "fortress Saudi Arabia."

The United States: 60,000 men including 25,000 already in Saudi Arabia and 35,000 sailors and airmen aboard the battleship Wisconsin and four carrier groups totalling 45 warships in or on route to the Gulf. At least 100 F-15 fighters and 48 F-16 ground attack jets already in Saudi Arabia plus some 300 warplanes with the carrier groups. Defence Department officials say at least 50,000 more troops are being shipped or flown to the Gulf.

France: 3,500 men aboard four warships already in the Gulf and aircraft carrier Clemenceau and two support ships on route. Combat planes, warships and troops from Djibouti and the Indian Ocean bring the total strength available in the crisis zone to 3,500 men.

Britain: Four warships plus three minesweepers and three support ships on route, 12 Tornado fighters in Saudi Arabia and 12 Jaguar jets in Oman, 250 support troops.

The Netherlands: Two frigates on route to the Gulf.

Belgium: Two minehunters plus support vessel on route to Mediterranean for possible despatch to the Gulf.

West Germany: Bonn has sent three minehunters, two minesweepers and a tender to the Eastern Mediterranean.

Australia: Two warships on route to the Gulf.

The Soviet Union: Two

warships and a supply ship in the Gulf.

Egypt: 5,000 men already in Saudi Arabia.

Morocco: 1,000 troops already in Saudi Arabia.

Syria: Damascus has said it will send troops but not announced numbers.

Pakistan: Army sources say some 5,000 Pakistani troops will be despatched to Saudi Arabia.

Bangladesh: Military sources say two brigades totalling 5,000 troops will join the multinational force.

Turkey has reinforced the second army group defending its southern borders by 10,000 men, bringing total strength in the area to 70,000. U.S. strike bombers and F-16s are also based in Turkey within striking distance of Iraq.

U.S. activating reserve fleet

The United States is pulling some of its merchant ships out of reserve to ferry cargo to American forces in the Gulf, U.S. officials said.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner did not say how many ships were being readied in harbours in Portland, Oregon, and Seattle, Washington, but industry experts put the number at 22.

He said 96 ships were in the ready reserve fleet in partial dry dock status but could be ready for military cargo duty in five to 10 days.

Skinner added at a news conference that U.S. Maritime Union officials told him they would find adequate civilian crews to man the ships as needed.

He also said he was pleased with the response of the U.S. airline industry to commit their commercial aircraft to carry troops to the Gulf, if needed.

Commercial airlines are available to the U.S. military under the civilian air reserve fleet programme to be used for military emergencies.

Skinner said airline officials told him the industry so far had been able to meet military airlift needs and would provide more, even "if that means cancelling flights, diverting commercial aircraft from commercial flights to military flights."

Shevardnadze: Gulf tension could explode

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said Friday that tensions in the Gulf could explode and he urged all countries to pursue diplomatic efforts for a settlement.

"No one can guarantee there will not be an explosion in the region — not the Soviet Union, not the United States, not Europe," Shevardnadze told reporters before talks with visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher.

"It seems to me we must work in various directions," he added. A Soviet envoy is now touring Middle Eastern capitals.

Shevardnadze said Arab countries, "if they act in unity," could make an important contribution to resolving the crisis caused by Iraq's takeover of Kuwait two weeks ago.

The Soviet Union has said it prefers a political solution to a military solution to the Gulf crisis.

Shevardnadze said the "adoption of collective measures, above all through the United Nations Security Council, is an important condition for the settlement of the Iraq-Kuwait conflict."

Moscow had been a close ally of Baghdad and supplied most of the arms used by Iraq in its takeover. It has since cut off arms deliveries, but has maintained diplomatic contacts.

The Defence Ministry newspaper Krasnaya Zvezda said it was suspicious of Washington's motives in sending forces to Saudi Arabia.

"Is it really necessary to concentrate such massive forces and arms in the area?" the newspaper asked.

"Any possible military conflict between the U.S. and Iraq clearly serves Israeli interests, inasmuch as attention is deflected from a solution of the Palestinian problem," Krasnaya Zvezda said.

The Soviet Union has started evacuating its citizens from Iraq in road convoys. Iraqi authorities in Kuwait have ordered British and U.S. citizens to assemble in hotels in Kuwait City, stirring fears they could be interned.

A Syrian newspaper said Friday that the Gulf crisis could explode unless Iraq quickly withdrew its troops from Kuwait.

"Would those people who are playing with time remember that time is not in anyone's favour," the official Al Thawra daily said. "Each moment which passes without an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait brings the region nearer to a big explosion."

'Stealth' bomber unlikely to be deployed in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Radar evading Stealth fighter jets being sent to the Middle East by Washington to bolster its forces in Saudi Arabia were unlikely to be deployed at a base in southern Turkey, U.S. and Turkish officials said Friday.

"We have not received them (the F-117A aircraft) and we were not told that we would," a spokeswoman for the U.S.-run Incirlik airbase in the southern province of Adana told Reuters.

A U.S. defence official in Washington said Wednesday he doubted the aircraft would be based in Saudi Arabia. The Incirlik airbase would be a more likely point from which the radar-avoiding planes might be launched against Iraq if war broke out in the region, he said.

"This is not presently under consideration at all," an official of the Turkish armed forces general staff told Reuters.

Commenting on Turkish press reports that the aircraft would be based at Incirlik, 800 kilometres west of the border with Iraq, he said: "These are imaginary assumptions."

"My current understanding is that they did not go to Incirlik," a U.S. embassy source in Ankara said.

The twin-engine, swallow-tail planes are flown by a single pilot and their composite construction materials and shape help them to absorb or harmlessly deflect enemy radar signals.

Turkey, the only NATO-member country bordering Iraq, has joined U.S. sanctions against Baghdad.

U.S. F-111 strike bombers, already deployed in Incirlik were holding routine training flights, the base spokeswoman said.

U.S. women soldiers give a culture shock to Saudis

By Dana Kennedy
The Associated Press

THE WOMEN among the 50,000 American soldiers in Saudi Arabia are likely to be a disturbing if not threatening presence in a culture where women cannot drive, vote, sit in a theatre with a man or even show their face and hair.

The Saudi kingdom has the most conservative and rigid Islamic way of life of all the Arab countries. Most Westerners there are employees of Western companies who are kept isolated from the rest of the country.

U.S. women soldiers said Wednesday that Saudi men react with dismay and occasional hostility when they see them doing such non-combat jobs as repairing airplanes and driving trucks or, in at least one case, giving orders to men.

"I don't think they disagree with what we're doing," said a Virginia sergeant whose name was withheld in keeping with the media ground rules. "I think they're more like shocked: 'There's an American woman. She's doing what men are doing...'"

The U.S. troops may pose a significant outside influence that

may be hard to control.

"It's a breaking of the hermetic seal that's surrounded Saudi Arabia since it was founded in the 1920s," said Richard Bulliet, a professor of Middle Eastern studies at Columbia University.

"What happens to the Saudi soldier whose world view of women is quasi-human, when he sees a woman making an arrest?"

The U.S. buildup includes women truck drivers, communications specialists, technicians and aircraft crew chiefs. The Pentagon would not give specific numbers.

Some experts warned against allowing U.S. troops much access to the average Saudi, who lives in a culture where one recent topic of conversation was whether beheadings should be televised. (So far, they have not been).

"It would be a big mistake if our soldiers were allowed to mix too much," said Lenore Martin, a fellow at Harvard University's Centre for Middle Eastern Studies.

"We really have to see our forces separate because the stability of the government is involved. One of the main reasons the Saudis haven't given us bases before is the fear of being too closely Westernised in order to

protect the fundamentalist regime and way of life."

Though Saudi men cannot drink alcohol and must adhere to a rigid dress code, among other regulations, it is Saudi women who live an especially restricted life.

When women go outside, their clothing must cover almost all of their bodies and faces. Women must use separate beaches and theatres. They are allowed an education but can attend only segregated classes. Saudi wives cannot ask for divorces and are strictly limited in their right to own property.

"American troops are totally incompatible with the way of life in Saudi Arabia," said Bulliet. "I have no idea who's going to get disgusted first — the Americans with Saudi behaviour or the Saudis with the Americans."

The Virginia sergeant, an F-15 fighter ground crew chief, said Saudi men stop work and stare when she tells crewmen what to do. She said Saudi men reacted so strongly when another ground crew woman peeled off her shirt to work in a T-shirt underneath that a U.S. sergeant told her to put it back on.

"They got very emotional ab-

out that," the sergeant said. "They made a lot of physical movements. I think they asked the sergeant to make her put her shirt back on."

American troops were briefed on Saudi culture in one of several booklets distributed before shipping out.

"You will seldom see women outside the home," reads one. "It is considered impolite to inquire about a man's wife or his female children. Men should not show any interest in Arab women. Do not photograph or stare at them. Arab women barely touch upon greeting a man and they shake hands using fingertips only."

But the Saudis' knowledge of the Western way of life may be less detailed. The information they glean from Saudi television, where prayers are broadcast five times daily along with readings from the Koran, is not likely to prepare them.

"The fact that there are women in the U.S. military will be regarded as a very unusual and perhaps disgraceful thing by the clergy in Saudi Arabia," said Gary Sick, a Middle Eastern specialist at Columbia and a member of the National Security Council during the Carter administration.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish foreign minister to visit Tehran

ANKARA (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Bozer will pay a two-day official visit to Tehran beginning Saturday, it was announced here Friday. Bozer was originally scheduled to visit Tehran in June, but the visit was then postponed, officially because of the devastating earthquake in Iran. But government sources then explained that the real reason was Turkey's unhappiness over anti-Turkish reports in the Iranian press following the screening in Turkey of an American film lampooning the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Different interpretations of Islam's role in public life has caused strains between neighbouring Turkey and Iran in the past. A written Foreign Ministry announcement said Bozer and his Iranian counterpart Ali Akbar Velayati would discuss regional and international developments and bilateral issues.

Israeli kill two in Lebanon

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops killed two guerrillas in Israel's self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon Friday, the army said. No Israelis were hurt. The Voice of Lebanon radio station said the two were Palestinians. The clash took place near Qantara, eight kilometres from the Israeli border.

Abu Dhabi sheikhs volunteer for the army

DUBAI (R) — Eight sheikhs from Abu Dhabi have joined the army to help defend the emirate against any possible invasion, the Gulf News said Friday. The newspaper said eight sons of Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, ruler of Abu Dhabi and president on the United Arab Emirates, joined up after the government called for volunteers following Iraq's take-over of Kuwait Aug. 2. UAE military sources said that thousands of people were responding to the plea for volunteers.

Ethiopian plane commandeered to Aden

SANA'A (AP) — Two passengers on an Ethiopian airliner hijacked the aircraft to Aden Thursday, where they were overpowered by security forces and arrested, the interior ministry announced. A statement from the ministry read over the state-run television said that one of the plane's security men was injured while overpowering the hijackers after the plane landed in the Red Sea port city. The Ethiopian "D-6" plane was on an internal flight when it was seized, the statement said. The plane with 20 passengers aboard returned to Ethiopia after the incident, it said. The two hijackers will be prosecuted, the statement added. It did not give the identities of the hijackers but they were believed to be Ethiopians. Several military aircraft from Ethiopia have defected across the Red Sea to Yemen. Eritrean opposition groups fighting for independence from Addis Ababa have political offices in Yemen.

Saudi airliners bring Egyptians home

CAIRO (R) — Two Saudi airlines flew into Cairo Friday carrying hundreds of Egyptian workers who fled the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait to Saudi Arabia, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The two jumbo jets brought more than 700 Egyptians who had been stranded at the Saudi-Kuwaiti border since escaping through the desert. A third plane was expected later on Friday, the agency said. Thousands of Egyptians have already returned home by land via Jordan either through Saudi Arabia or Iraq. About 150,000 Egyptians were working in Kuwait before the take-over on Aug. 2.

Philippines to file protest with Iraq

MANILA (AP) — President Corason Aquino said Friday the Philippines will file a diplomatic protest against alleged abuses by Iraqi soldiers of Filipino workers in Kuwait. Aquino said the department of foreign affairs will file the protest with the Iraqi embassy in Manila to remind it of Baghdad's assurances that Filipinos would be safe in Kuwait. There have been numerous news reports of rapes, looting and other abuses by Iraq's troops of foreigners, including Filipinos, trapped in Kuwait. Her spokesman, Adolfo Azuma, said Aquino had asked Philippine embassies in the Middle East and the International Committee of the Red Cross to gather information about these abuses before filing a "protest in specific terms." On Thursday, 271 Filipinos who fled from Kuwait by crossing Jordan arrived in Manila.

Israeli linked to Colombian drug murder

TEL AVIV (AP) — An attorney for a reserve Israeli army colonel denied Thursday that his client helped Colombian cocaine traffickers murder a leading presidential candidate. A report released Wednesday by Colombia's Department of Administrative Security, or secret police, said that Yair Klein was a "mercenary, narco-terrorist instructor and presumed accomplice" in the murder Aug. 18 of candidate Luis Carlos Galan. Klein's attorney, Igal Shapiro, told Israeli army radio his client was not involved. "This has no truth whatsoever," Shapiro said. "This report is a delayed move by people who have a lot of imagination. After all, now he (Klein) has become a hit ... a scapegoat." The murder of Galan, the leading presidential hopeful in the ruling liberal party, led to a war between the government and the Medellin cocaine cartel.

U.S. quits NATO exercise in Norway

OSLO (R) — The United States has decided to withdraw all 5,500 troops from a NATO exercise in Norway next month because of force deployments to the Gulf, Norwegian defence officials said Friday. The withdrawal from "Teamwork 90" follows an announcement that 6,500 U.S. troops were being withdrawn from another NATO exercise in September in Denmark and northern Germany. "The situation in the Gulf ... has made them (the Americans) withdraw their forces from Teamwork 90," said Hans Oestrem, spokesman with Norway's defence command, southern Norway. He said the exercise would go ahead as none of the nine other nations involved had pulled out.

Under the Patronage of Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein

IN COOPERATION WITH MOOR A.I. JESSSEN FOUNDATION AND THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE OF U.A.E.

THE HANDICRAFT SUMMER EXHIBITION

quilts leather handbags beachbags
collectors' dolls picture frames olive oil soap

Thursday, 9 - Saturday 18 August, 1990
11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. at Al Ribat Complex

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME ONE	
15:30	Koran
15:45	Programme review
15:55	Children programme
17:30	Educational programme
18:00	News Summary
18:10	Local programme
19:00	Programme review
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic series
21:30	Programme review
21:50	Local programme
23:00	News in Arabic
23:10	Arabic play
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Monde Est a Vous
18:15	News in French
19:15	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Joint Acoustic
21:00	Local programme
21:30	Classic Music
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature film: "Shooting Stars"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:33	Fajr
05:50	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:39	Dhuhr
16:18	Asr
19:22	Maghrib
20:46	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetleeb, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 674440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terranova Church Tel. 623666	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Assuan International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather will prevail and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./max. temp.	
Amman 19 / 32	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Aqaba 26 / 39	
Deserts 20 / 37	
Jordan Valley 25 / 38	
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 32, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 22 per cent, Aqaba 22 per cent.	
USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker 746426	
Dr. Tayseer Khadr 606857	
Pina pharmacy 661912	
Pardons pharmacy 778336	
Al Asma pharmacy 671053	
Natrokhi pharmacy 623672	
Al Salam pharmacy 636730	
Yacoub pharmacy 644945	
Shameelan pharmacy 637600	
IRBID:	
Dr. Muzen Abu Baker 661101	
Al Shura'a pharmacy 983236	
ZARQA:	
Dr. Khalil Abu Hussein 661101	
EMERGENCIES	
Civil Defence Department 661111	
Civil Defence Immediate 630341	
Rescue 199	
Fire Brigade 891228	
Blood Bank 775121	
Highway Police 943402	
Traffic Police 896390	
Public Security Department 630321	
Hotel Complaints 605800	
Price Complaints 661176	
Water and Sewerage 897467	
Complaints 897467	
Amman Municipality 787111	
Central Amman Telephone (directory assistance) 121	
Overseas Calls 010230	
Repairs:	
Abdali Telephone Repairs 623101	
Jordan Television 773111	
Radio Jordan 773111	
Water Authority 681000	
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	
Electric Power 815615	
Khalifah pharmacy 985417	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 642816	
Malhe, J. Amn 631401	
Jabal Amman Maternity 642622	
Al-Mashar Hospital 6672719	
Palestine, Shmeisani 6611114	
Shmeisani Hospital 669131	
University Hospital 845845	
Al-Mashar Hospital 6672719	
The Islamic, Abdali 6661273	
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646	
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafish 7511126	
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 7771013	
ZARQA:	
Army, Marika 8916115	
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50	
Amal Hospital 674155	
ZARQA:	
Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323	
Zarga National Hospital (09)991071	
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732	
Princess Basma Hospital (02)775355	
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)772775	
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100	
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111	
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (05)5200-5, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:45	Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:00	Dhaka, Doha (RJ)
06:15	Amman, New York (RJ)
06:30	Amman, London (RJ)
06:45	Amman, Paris (RJ)
07:00	Amman, Rome (RJ)
07:15	Amman, Athens (RJ)
07:30	Amman, Frankfurt (RJ)
07:45	Amman, Zurich (RJ)
08:00	Amman, Geneva (RJ)
08:15	Amman, Bern (RJ)
08:30	Amman, Basel (RJ)
08:45	Amman, Cologne (RJ)
09:00	Amman, Frankfurt (RJ)
09:15	Amman, Zurich (RJ)
09:30	Amman, Bern (RJ)
09:45	Amman, Basel (RJ)
10:00	Amman, Cologne (RJ)



ARAB BANK

Profile

Arab Bank was registered on May 21, 1930 in Jerusalem - Palestine, under the Palestinian Companies' Law. The Bank started operations on July 14, 1930 with a paid-up capital of Palestinian pounds 15,000. Today, equity is around US\$800 million. In 1948, Arab Bank General Management was moved to Amman - Jordan, and later the Bank was incorporated in Jordan as a public shareholding company. Currently, Arab Bank and its 12 subsidiaries and affiliated companies have a worldwide and diversified network of more than 270 branches. The Bank operates in 45 countries covering the Arab world and the major financial centres around the globe. Arab Bank is the leading non-government financial institution in the Arab world and is ranked among the largest international banks in terms of equity, earnings and assets.

The Bank, through its branches and subsidiaries, is engaged in providing a wide variety of financial services to individuals, corporate and institutional customers, government agencies, and other financial institutions. These services include retail banking, private banking, trade financing, merchant banking, commercial real estate lending and international banking.

At the end of June 1990, Arab Bank group's equity came to 6.1% of Total assets. The capital adequacy ratio for the Group, measured according to the Basle Committee rule, was around 14%. Moreover, total equity corresponded to more than 20% of the loan portfolio, placing the Bank in a very solid and sound financial position.

Traditionally, Arab Bank employed a prudent asset management policy which is centered on selecting a prime loan portfolio and, at the same time, maintaining high liquidity. At the end of June, 1990, the Group liquidity ratio (Cash in hand and at banks and marketable securities to total assets) amounted to 65%.

During the first half of 1990, Arab Bank continued its well planned and balanced growth. Despite a decline of 17.3% in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar against the U.S. dollar, total assets of the Group advanced to US\$ 13.1 billion, an increase of 2%.

Most of the Bank's external sources of funds are composed of stable customers' deposits which give the Bank ample room to manage its assets efficiently and reflect the customers' longstanding confidence and loyalty. Total deposits at the end of June 1990 reached US\$12.1 billion. The geographical distribution in percent of the Group's deposits was as follows: Jordan 11%, Middle East and North Africa excluding Jordan 26%, Europe 51%, Far East 4%, and North America 8%.

As the 21st century is approaching, Arab Bank looks at the future with great optimism and determination. The Bank plans to continue to play a leading role in the economies of the Arab world and at the same time it will endeavour to enhance its position as a major financial institution in the international markets.

ARAB BANK GROUP Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1990 and 1989

Assets	30/06/90 US\$ ('000)	30/06/89 US\$ ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	7,576,159	7,569,351
Securities and investments	917,549	723,708
Loans and advances	3,944,248	3,954,315
Customers' liability on acceptances	61,588	81,256
Investments in associated companies	234,927	184,504
Premises and equipment	74,893	68,382
Accrued interest receivable	123,237	121,232
Other assets	192,591	160,351
Total Assets	13,125,192	12,863,099
Customers' liability on Guarantees and letters of credit	2,398,505	1,864,731
Total	15,523,697	14,727,830

Liabilities	30/06/90 US\$ ('000)	30/06/89 US\$ ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	12,106,214	11,816,016
Acceptances	61,588	81,256
Accrued interest payable	94,443	107,369
Other Liabilities	65,167	91,980
Total Liabilities	12,327,412	12,096,621
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	86,939	86,939
Statutory reserve	77,450	76,097
General reserve	478,205	403,115
Voluntary reserve	141,379	126,569
Reserves with associated companies	160,499	147,568
Retained earnings	538	38,045
Total	945,010	878,333
Translation adjustments	(147,230)	(111,855)
Total Shareholders' Equity	797,780	766,478
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	13,125,192	12,863,099
Guarantees and letters of credit	2,398,505	1,864,731
Total	15,523,697	14,727,830

Net profit for the periods ended June 30, 1990 and June 30, 1989 was included in "Other liabilities".

ARAB BANK PLC Balance Sheet as of 30 June 1990 and 1989

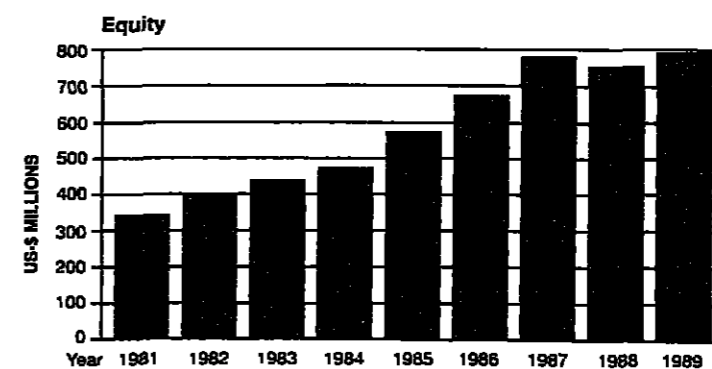
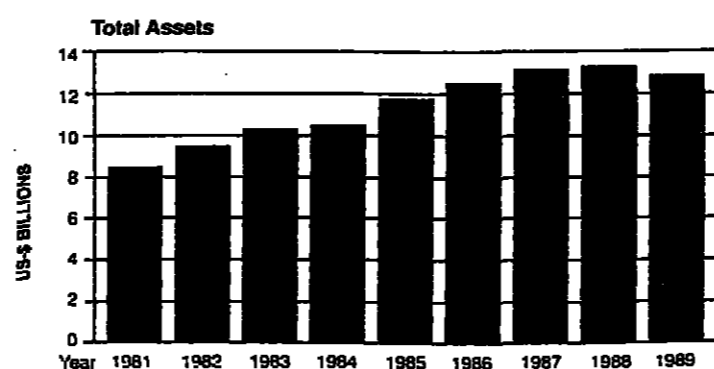
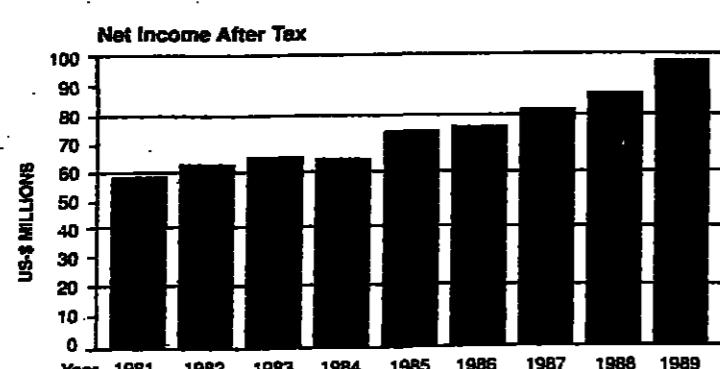
Assets	30/06/90 J.D. ('000)	30/06/89 J.D. ('000)
Cash in hand and at banks	3,220,527	2,648,223
Securities	482,944	334,513
Loans and advances	2,429,517	2,029,212
Customers' liability on acceptances	41,141	46,168
Investments	44,420	36,491
Premises and equipment	34,734	28,121
Accrued interest receivable	81,786	68,882
Other assets	88,417	53,469
Total Assets	6,423,486	5,245,079
Customers' liability on Guarantees and letters of credit	1,499,092	975,776
Total	7,922,578	6,220,855

Liabilities	30/06/90 J.D. ('000)	30/06/89 J.D. ('000)
Deposits and other accounts	6,031,521	4,897,869
Acceptances	41,141	46,168
Accrued interest payable	62,693	61,005
Other Liabilities	35,631	32,037
Total Liabilities	6,170,986	5,037,079
Shareholders' Equity		
Capital	22,000	22,000
Statutory reserve	22,000	22,000
General reserve	154,500	120,000
Voluntary reserve	54,000	44,000
Total Shareholders' Equity	252,500	208,000
Total Liabilities and Shareholders' Equity	6,423,486	5,245,079
Guarantees and letters of credit	1,499,092	975,776
Total	7,922,578	6,220,855

Net profit for the periods ended June 30, 1990 and June 30, 1989 was included in "Other liabilities".

J.D. 1 = U.S.\$ 1.50 on 30/06/90 J.D. 1 = U.S.\$ 1.76 on 30/06/89

ARAB BANK GROUP



ARAB BANK, GENERAL MANAGEMENT - SHMEISANI, AMMAN
P.O. BOX: 950544-5 - TELEPHONE: 660115, 660131
TELEX: 23091 ARABNK JO - FAX: (962)(6)606793

Jordanians willing to return to Kuwait or stay, work there

By Mariam M. Shakhin and Ali T. Masarweh
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Life has gone back to normal for Jordanian expatriates living in Kuwait since all professional establishments, with the exception of the banking sector, were reopened in the aftermath of Iraq's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

While many Jordanians who came to spend their summer in Jordan used to bring in remittances, those crossing the Iraqi-Jordanian border in the wake of the takeover have come with nothing more than a few suitcases and Kuwaiti dinars whose value has dropped to about one tenth of their original one.

"We are safe, well and going back to work," said one employee of an insurance company in Kuwait city who came to Jordan three days ago. "The only problem is we have no money, our savings are all gone," he said.

Monetary problems seem to be the main difficulty facing Jordanian residents in Kuwait, since most banks are still closed and savings in Kuwaiti

dinars have thinned out with the devaluation.

Expatriates said most Jordanians residing in Kuwait had their savings in Kuwaiti dinars. Jordanians returning from Kuwait Thursday said there were some reports in Kuwait that banks might open Saturday, Aug. 18.

"We had food in the freezer and money in the bank when we left Kuwait," said one Jordanian who came to Jordan last Monday. "The food is still there, but the dinars are now worthless," he added.

Of the 420,000 Jordanian expatriates living in Kuwait, 250,000 are wage earners who regularly brought or send home remittances.

"Jordanians are being allowed to return back to work using their residency and work permits," another expatriate told the Jordan Times.

No Jordanians have applied for new work permits at the Kuwaiti Embassy in Amman since the Gulf crisis began, embassy personnel said Thursday.

There was a general consensus among Jordanians returning from Kuwait that harassment of Jordanians and

Palestinians living in Kuwait was non-existent and that reports of massive looting by Iraqi soldiers were false.

"Yes, there were some thefts and harassment of women initially, but not by Iraqi soldiers," said a Jordanian woman returning from Kuwait on her way to London.

"The Iraqi soldiers," she explained "have been told by Saddam that the punishment for theft or harassment of women is death and they know he is not joking, therefore it is very unlikely that the Iraqi army would get out of line."

One Jordanian returning from Kuwait who spoke to the Jordan Times said that "in the early days after the takeover if there was a theft or a crime being committed there was no one to call and no police to keep order and some people took advantage of that, but we did not hear or see the involvement of any Iraqi soldiers in those incidents."

Most expatriates said that they had planned to return to Kuwait and that most Jordanians were likely to remain in Kuwait as long as they were allowed to stay and work.

Jordan prepares for civil defence training

AMMAN (J.T.) — In line with the directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein last week, the Civil Defence Department (CDD) has embarked on the necessary preparations for holding civil defence training courses in various governorates and districts, according to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra.

In Zarqa a civil defence training course starts today, Aug. 18 for staff of the Vocational Training Centre in Hashimieh.

The CDD branch in Zarqa said it would be holding similar training courses in the various parts of the governorate, in accordance with a programme to be worked out by the department in cooperation with the municipalities, educational departments, clubs, community colleges and voluntary societies.

Director of CDD in Zarqa Lieutenant Colonel Abdul Rahman Al Naser said that the department had distributed questionnaires to the people willing to join the training, in preparation for drawing up a comprehensive training plan.

In Irbid Governorate, a two-week training course for 66 staff members from Hakama Vocational Training Centre commenced Thursday. Other training courses are being organised in the various parts of the governorate. In Balqa Governorate, plans

are underway to hold such training courses in the various parts and districts of the governorate. CDD has named Salt Secondary School for Girls the centre for women willing to join the civil defence training courses, and Uqba Ben Nafi Secondary School for boys the centre for men to train.

In South Shouneh plans are under way to train people on how to deal with emergency, extinguish fire and prepare health centres and clinics to receive emergencies.

In Maan Governorate the Civil Defence Committee has named four schools and a youth club for training purposes. The schools are Nussabih Al Mazinih, Al Shamieh School for Girls, Sikket Al Hadid (railroad) School, and the Housing School for Girls. The committee called on people wishing to join in training to register their names at these centres.

In Karak Governorate preparations are under way to organise civil defence training courses. In Mazar district two places have been named for training purposes. In Qasr district, the district governor has decided to set up three training centres, two in Qasr town and the third in Al Aabbah Health Centre. The courses will commence today, Aug. 18.

Governorates rally in support of King's stand, Iraqi leader

AMMAN (Petra) — Thousands of citizens in Maan Governorate took part in demonstrations, following Friday prayers, to express support for His Majesty King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The demonstrators, who carried photos of King Hussein and Saddam Hussein, chanted pro-Islamic slogans, called for national unity and voiced condemnation of the foreign intervention in the Arab Gulf region.

The Egyptian community in the governorate and the city of Maan, which was bedecked with Jordanian and Iraqi flags, took part in the demonstrations and carried banners rejecting the foreign intervention.

In another development hundreds of Egyptian citizens in Irbid Governorate organised a demonstration after the Friday prayers through Irbid's main streets.

Participants in the demonstra-

tion carried banners condemning the foreign invasion of Arab land and calling for the unity of the Arab Nation in the face of the grave challenges facing it.

They also carried photos of King Hussein and Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and praised the King's support of Iraq.

The participants chanted pro-Iraq slogans and affirmed that the Egyptian people are part of the Arab Nation.

In Jerash hundreds of citizens took part in demonstrations and marched through the streets of the Greco-Roman city carrying photos of His Majesty King Hussein and chanting pro-Iraq slogans.

Jerash Lower House of Parliament Deputies addressed the demonstrators and condemned foreign invasion of Arab lands. Demonstrations also took place in Al Mashareh town in Deir Abu Saeed district. Several

citizens delivered speeches voicing pride in His Majesty's stands which reject foreign intervention in Arab affairs.

On Thursday Umm Qais Charitable Society organised a public rally in cooperation with the Public Committee for the Support of Iraq to express support for the Jordanian and the Iraqi leaderships.

Speakers at the rally lauded King Hussein's national stands and praised efforts exerted by him to contain the crisis in the Gulf region and solve it within the Arab context.

They also condemned foreign military intervention in the region and called for unifying the Arab ranks to confront conspiracies against the Arab Nation.

Participants in the rally sent cables to King Hussein and President Saddam expressing support for King Hussein's efforts and condemning foreign intervention in Arab affairs.

The Arab Youth Forum expresses support for King's efforts to contain Gulf crisis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Youth Forum (AYF) Friday voiced absolute support for His Majesty King Hussein's efforts to contain the Gulf crisis and to reach a pan-Arab solution to this inter-Arab dispute, sparing the region the consequences of a volatile and explosive situation.

At the end of an intensive meeting held at Al Hussein Youth City, attended by representatives of the AYF preparatory committees throughout the Kingdom, the forum sent a cable of appreciation to King Hussein and pledged to rally behind his

leadership. The forum noted with great appreciation the untiring efforts King Hussein has been and is still making to achieve Arab solidarity and rally the Arab Nation at this time when the destiny of the whole Arab Nation and its future is endangered.

The forum expressed its full support of the positions adopted by the King, saying that "such positions aim at, containing all Arab disputes within an Arab framework and mobilising all resources to solve any Arab dispute

in an Arab perspective, away from any foreign intervention in the Arab affairs."

The participants rejected all forms of foreign interference in the region, irrespective of any justification or pretexts given for such intervention. The participants called on Arab leaders to back the efforts made by the King in order to fend off the threats and prevent the outbreak of war.

They also called them to deal with the Gulf crisis as an internal Arab affair, which should be solved only by the Arab family.

Official urges increased production, stable prices

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the board of directors of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) Khaldoun Abu Hassan Friday called on the industrial and productive sectors in Jordan to forge closer cooperation at this particular time when the crisis in the region is escalating.

Addressing a joint meeting, grouping representatives of the ACI and the General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions (GFTU), Abu Hassan called for maintaining and increasing production to cover the needs of the local and foreign markets, and to stabilise the prices of the pro-

ducts, rather than increase them under the current circumstances. "By doing so, we demonstrate our genuine interest and our duty to counter the evils surrounding the Arab homeland," Abu Hassan said.

President of the GFTU Abdul Halim Khaddam said that the labour force in Jordan has always adopted honourable pan-Arab stands in defence of the Arab causes.

Khaddam called on the production forces to increase production and to adjust to the economic situation.

Highest number of crossings for a single day since Aug. 2; volume expected to rise further 17,000 arrive from Iraq

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Over 17,000 people of various Arab, Asian and African nationalities arrived in Jordan from Iraq Friday, clogging the main highway from the Al-Ruweished border post to Amman in what was predicted to be the frontrunner of a massive exodus of at least a million people from Iraq in the next few days, officials and witnesses said.

Eight French nationals, four East Germans and one Canadian were among those arriving Friday, but informed sources said there was no indication of any mass flow of the estimated 15,000 Western Europeans and North Americans stranded in Iraq and Kuwait following Baghdad's takeover of Kuwait Aug. 2.

According to border officials and diplomatic sources, Baghdad appeared to have adopted a policy of issuing exit permits for Europeans and North Americans of Arab or Asian origin. "The eight French who crossed (Friday) were of Maghreb (North African Arab) origin and the Canadian is of Palestinian origin," the official noted. He could not confirm reports that the three East Germans were also of Arab origin.

A Soviet source said in Amman Friday that several vehicles had left for Al-Ruweished, expecting to pick up a group of 230 Soviet women and children evacuated from Baghdad. The source could not say how many of the group were residents of Kuwait or Iraq. There was no indication when Iraq would grant permission to Soviet men to leave. According to reports, there are at least 9,000 Soviet citizens in Iraq and Kuwait.

Hundreds of Asian nationals — Indians, Pakistanis, South Koreans, Filipinos, Thais, Sri Lankans, Bangladeshis and others — were among those crossing Friday. Many of them left aboard special flights arranged by their governments Friday evening and others stayed on, awaiting flights out Saturday and Sunday.

Over 150,000 foreigners — including 200 Westerners — have fled Iraq through Jordan since the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait on Aug. 2, according to some accounts. "It could somewhere in that region," said a senior Interior Ministry official.

Over 1,300 Jordanians also arrived from Kuwait through Iraq Friday, and some of them complained that they had to abandon their vehicles on the Iraqi side of the border in light

of a new rule which bars Kuwaiti licence plate vehicles from leaving Iraq. The alternative, according to the new regulation which went into effect last week, is to change the licence to an Iraqi one, a process which entails payment of customs duties and return to Baghdad from the border post, according to a Jordanian civil engineer, who said he drove a medium-size Japanese car to Baghdad, left the vehicle with some friends and took a bus to the border.

"Many others are simply drive their vehicles to the border and leave them there, said the engineer, who agreed to be identified only as Nihad. "On the other hand, there are many who sold their cars for as low as \$250 or \$300."

Meanwhile, an Iraqi Airways flight arrived here from Baghdad carrying 80 passengers with more than half of them Iraqi nationals and the rest an assortment of other Arabs, including Jordanians.

An Iraqi Airways official said no decision has been taken to operate daily flights from Baghdad to Amman. Most European countries have banned Iraqi flights from landing in their territory in line with a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Baghdad for its takeover of Kuwait.

NAF to amend regulations

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Abdul Majid Al Shraideh Thursday chaired a meeting for the National Aid Fund's (NAF) board of directors to discuss the possibility of making amendments to the fund's regulations, aimed at identifying needy families.

Shraideh stressed that the fund's top priority was to reach the poor segments of the society and those who are in real need for assistance in various parts of Jordan.

He urged the directors of social development departments, who attended the meeting, to intensify their studies, research and contracts in a bid to identify those in dire need for assistance and to send detailed reports about their cases to the ministry to enable it to provide assistance to them. He called for easing bureaucratic

procedures and for providing the necessary personnel and transportation needed for the field personnel to facilitate their missions.

At the end of the meeting the board decided to set up a special committee, grouping representatives of NAF and the social development departments, to work

out amendments to the NAF regulations with a view to making them consistent with the fund's objectives and mandate.

The minister had earlier announced that it was ready to give monthly assistance to at least 2,800 poor families and to assist in setting up income-generating projects for 2,000 families.

CONDOLENCES

The editor and the staff of the Jordan Times deeply mourn the passing of

Fadi Nasrallah

nephew of their friend and colleague Elia Nasrallah, in a car accident at the age of 13. We wish to express our sorrow to the Nasrallah family.

May the departed soul rest in peace.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Open studio and workshop for artist Samia Zaru displaying paintings, sculptures and hand-painted fabrics. Location: off 2nd Circle, opposite Rosehail (9:30-1:30 and 3:30-6:30).
- ★ Art exhibition by Saballa Al Kowari at the Royal Cultural Centre.

Gorbachev

(Continued from page 1)

Virtually all major weapons-producing nations have complied.

Correspondents crowded around Shevardnadze at the end of a press conference with visiting West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher Friday to ask if Soviet troops would be sent to the Gulf.

"Yes, if there is a decision by the Security Council," Shevardnadze said. Shevardnadze would not say how the Soviet Union would vote on such a proposal in the U.N. Security Council. "That question has not been raised yet," he said.

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Lebanese central bank fixes no dollar rate for fifth day

BEIRUT (R) — The Lebanese central bank failed to fix a rate for the dollar for the fifth successive day Friday following heavy demand in the wake of the Gulf crisis.

Banking sources said the central bank, wanting "more rational financial operations" declined to fix a rate in the hope that this may help subside the confusion in the market. Commercial banks also posted no dollar rate.

The last official quote, at the

end of last week, was 755.00/760.00 liras to the dollar.

The lira has fluctuated between 800 and 830 to the dollar in black market dealings during the week.

The sources said the central bank's capacity to intervene in the foreign exchange market has diminished as a result of a drop in its reserves to a perceived "danger level" of \$500 million. It has in the past intervened actively, selling or buying dollars to stabilise the market.

The lira has nosedived sharply since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, passing 700 to the dollar for the first time on Aug. 7 following heavy demand for the U.S. currency.

The sources said the high demand reflected concern over the future of an Arab-sponsored peace plan to end the country's 15-year civil war because of Arab preoccupation with the Gulf crisis.

Indonesia, Ecuador oppose Saudi call for immediate OPEC meeting

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia said Friday it opposed an immediate OPEC meeting called for by Saudi Arabia to avert oil shortages during the Gulf crisis.

"Indonesia is not against OPEC meeting but the time is not yet right. I believe the right time is at the end of August or early September by which time OPEC could evaluate world stocks," Mines and Energy Minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita told Reuters.

Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer called on Thursday for an immediate meeting. Indonesia, Asia's only member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), is a moderate voice within the group.

Earlier, Ginanjar said OPEC minister should look to world oil stocks at the end of the month and then decide whether to hold a meeting.

"I respect the Saudi proposal. Any country can propose a meeting if they have a reason and OPEC must honour that. But the question is the timing," he noted.

Indonesia is among several OPEC members which want to see oil stockpiles in industrialised

countries drop sharply before pumping more oil into the market to make up for the cut in supplies from Iraq and Kuwait.

Oil analysts say at least six of the 13-member group are opposed to the Saudi proposal, but add that Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, is clearly ready to act alone.

"The around 500 million barrels of overhanging oil stocks need to be reduced to normal levels. If not they will threaten future oil prices," Ginanjar said.

About 200 million of those barrels are above normal levels, analysts say.

"Indonesia shares the view with Saudi Arabia that we should not allow oil prices to fluctuate and jump too high because it will affect the world economy," Ginanjar said.

He said any OPEC country had the right to decide to increase production but the group as a whole would not be responsible.

"But Indonesia expects that will not happen. We want to keep OPEC unity. It is important for OPEC members to show restraint and to understand the problems facing other countries," Ginanjar said.

He cautioned the group against becoming politicised. "OPEC was set up as an organisation for economic reasons to provide as much benefit as possible to producers and consumers."

IN Quito, Ecuador Energy Minister Diego Tamariz Thursday restated his opposition to an urgent OPEC ministerial meeting sought by Venezuela and Saudi Arabia to analyse possible oil production increases.

In a radio interview, Tamariz said a meeting now "may not even be able to open" due to the problem of which Kuwaiti government to recognise following Iraq's takeover of the country and removal of the emir.

Venezuela supports the call for an early meeting, and President Carlos Andres Perez said his nation could produce an additional 500,000 barrels per day (b/d) but would not do so without OPEC accord.

Tamariz said that Ecuador would not support an urgent meeting due to worries the organisation may be forced to deal with political problems that do not fall within its realm.

West German firms buy stake in East German gas monopoly

EAST BERLIN (R) — West Germany's two biggest gas suppliers bought 45 per cent of East Germany's gas monopoly Thursday, the first large privatisation in the former communist controlled economy.

East Germany's government trustee agency, responsible for privatisation, said it had sold 35 per cent of Verbundnetz Gas

A.G. to Ruhrgas A.G. and another 10 per cent to Brighta Elwerath GmbH, a West German unit of oil giants Shell and Esso.

Reiner Gohlke, the agency's president, told reporters the two firms had made a 450 million mark (\$290 million) advance payment for the 45 per cent stake. The final price would be decided

by an independent team of accountants.

"This price is a minimum and we hope the final result will be higher," said Gohlke, whose agency has so far signed deals worth 800 million marks (more than \$500 million) to privatise industry.

Ruhrgas's East German ambitions have drawn criticism from the European Community's anti-trust authorities, which feared non-West German firms were being kept out of the bidding.

Gohlke said his agency, called the Treuhandanstalt, was negotiating the sale of the remaining 55 per cent.

Ecuador has an OPEC quota of 273,000 barrels per day and a production capacity of 308,000 b/d. Venezuela's quota stands at 1,945 million b/d, while capacity is about 2.8 million b/d.

Analysts anticipate pressure on profits of U.S. corporations

NEW YORK (AP) — Most industries' profits will be hurt by the Middle East crisis, analysts say.

It also appears increasingly likely that the final quarter will salvage a year of relatively lackluster returns.

"Everybody is going to be hurt by this," said Robert Brusca, chief economist at Nikko Securities Co. International Inc.

The jump in oil prices is seen as raising costs of production, materials and shipping for everyone from to industrialists. Statistics indicate the U.S. economy already was in a slowdown before the oil shock, and the outlook now might include a full-fledged recession.

Still, many companies are maintaining their outward composure. They say that although they're monitoring the situation, it's still pretty much business as usual.

"We're concerned about the macro question of peace in our time, but I don't know if (the Gulf crisis) will have a bearing on the (fourth) quarter," said Barbara Lucas, a vice president of Townsend, Maryland-based Black and Decker Corp.

Union Carbide Corp. has seen "no major effect on our operating or production costs" and has made no major changes in its strategic plans, spokesman Thomas Sprick said from company headquarters in Danbury, Conn.

Both he and Lucas suggested their companies may be somewhat insulated from higher prices because they have long-term contracts for raw materials.

But contracts do get renegotiated, or even broken. "The legal fees associated with breaking a contract might be cheaper than supplying somebody with cheap energy," said John Silvia, an economist and vice president at Kemper Financial Services in Chicago.

Silvia has revised his profit projections in light of the oil crisis. He's predicting corporate profits will total \$306 billion in the quarter ending Sept. 30, down from an earlier estimate of around \$320 billion. And for the final quarter of the year, he expects profits to show an 18 per cent decline from the year-ago period.

"There will be different degrees of impact, but I don't think anybody is going to walk away from it and say they're not affected," Silvia said.

Companies taking the hit initially are airlines, transportation companies and consumer durables manufacturers, but that will filter down to most other industries over time, he said.

"The most serious overall issue has to be consumer confidence," Silvia said. Given the weakness in demand, manufacturers may have a hard time passing on price increases to compensate for their higher costs.

"The (Middle East) crisis adds another layer to the problems firms are facing," Nikko's Brusca said. "They're cutting back capital spending, inventories have been cut down and order backlogs have been falling for some time," all indications that corporate projections are less than optimistic.

Asian stocks plunge

TOKYO (AP) — Tokyo stock prices plunged Friday as hopes diminished for a swift settlement of the Middle East crisis, while the dollar drifted lower against the Japanese yen.

The 225-issue Nikkei stock average fell 762.72 points, or 2.77 per cent, to 26,786.72 points by the close of the week's trading. Estimated volume was 300 million shares.

Traders said that many investors were disappointed with the outcome of the meeting between President George Bush and His Majesty King Hussein at Bush's summer retreat in Kennebunkport, Maine.

Optimism swept the market Wednesday on rumors that King Hussein was carrying a letter containing a peace proposal from Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, boosting the Nikkei average over 1,400 points.

Tokyo markets at first followed New York's downward trend in overnight trading. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks fell 66.83 to 2,681.44, its lowest close since the crisis began.

Traders said that uncertainty over how events in the Middle East might change over the weekend depressed trading, and arbitrage traders were active in the falling market.

Cheaper bonds also played a role, according to Kazuhiro Nomura, of the New Japan Securities Co.

Brent crude for October delivery continued to climb, meanwhile. It was valued at about \$26.10-\$26.20 a barrel in Tokyo Friday afternoon, up from the previous evening's price in New York of \$26.00-\$26.05 a barrel.

In currency trading, the dollar closed at 147.35 yen. Trading moved between a low of 147.35

yen and a high of 148.10 yen. With the United States facing long-term economic problems, and Japan's economy relatively stronger in the short term, traders predicted that the dollar would remain in the 147-148 range.

Although the dollar normally gains strength in times of crisis, the structural weaknesses of the U.S. economy have overwhelmed its traditional strength in times of crisis, traders said.

"The yen has strengthened a little," said Robert Feldman of Solomon Brothers Asia.

On the bond market, the yield of the benchmark No. 119 10-year Japanese government bonds closed at 8.050 per cent, up from Thursday's close of 7.985 per cent. Its price fell to 83.24 points from 83.52 points the previous day.

The gloomy outlook for the U.S. economy and gathering stormclouds in the Middle East drove down other Asian stock prices and eroded the dollar's earlier gains.

The Taipei exchange saw a record one-day percentage loss. Share prices were sharply down in Singapore, Hong Kong and Sydney, though the Australian decline appeared due less to international tension than negative news from building giant CSR.

Brokers in Japan predict more volatility and possible further declines next week.

"Next week fund managers will be coming back from holidays," said a broker at a Japanese house. "It is difficult to say what will happen but they may start selling after having missed this week's losses."

The U.S. currency hit a record low of 1.5475 marks here on active selling fuelled by concerns over Thursday's steep decline in U.S. stocks and bonds

and a weak U.S. economy, dealers said.

"The dollar looks really fragile," said Hiroaki Shukuzawa at Sumitomo Bank. "After earlier short-covering quickly stalled, there is a perception in the market that taking of dollar longs would not work well."

Tokyo's losses and a report that Saudi Arabia would cut oil supplies to Taiwan made Taipei stocks fall an unprecedented 6.8 per cent. Most issues fell the maximum allowed, seven per cent, at the opening, and the weighted index lost 292.72 points in subsequent thin trading to close at 4,010.56.

Singapore share prices were generally lower in this trade at midday as investors reacted to a weak performance on Wall Street and Tokyo's sharp decline.

The Straits Times industrial index of 30 Singapore blue chips fell 16.98 points to 1,312.38 while the United Overseas Bank's OTC index, which tracks the performance of Malaysian and overseas stocks traded on the "over the counter" market, shed 12.71 points to 885.66.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index was easier at 3,125.92 from 3,183.29 in late trading.

The Australian stock market, which had earlier held its ground amid the heightened Gulf tension and the sharp falls in New York and Tokyo, finished sharply down after CSR said it faced a sharp slump in sales.

That soured sentiment for local industrial stocks, and the All Ordinaries index ended 15.2 points weaker at 1,543.30.

Gold bullion was quoted at \$410.75/\$411.50 per ounce in late trading, down from around \$413 in early trade. In New York, it was quoted at \$408.50/\$409.00 Thursday.

Latin nations fear economic fallout from crisis in Gulf

SAO PAULO (R) — The Gulf crisis is threatening the bold economic reforms getting under way in Latin America's oil-importing nations while giving oil exporters like Mexico and Ecuador more breathing room from financial pressures.

Brazil, which has endured three failed attempts at economic reform since 1986, just a month ago began seeing strong evidence that the policies of President Fernando Collor de Mello, who took office in March, would tame hyperinflation.

Victory over inflation is suddenly in doubt because of higher oil prices.

"The Middle East could have a dramatic effect on Brazil's economic stabilisation programme," said former Finance Minister Malton da Nobrega.

Nobrega and other analysts say the passing on of higher crude prices could rekindle inflation in Brazil, Latin America's biggest country.

The higher world prices represent an additional \$1 billion over six months for oil imports in Brazil, a huge figure for a nation whose foreign exchange reserves do not equal arrears on foreign debt.

Brazil, which imports about half of the 1.2 million barrels a day of petroleum it consumes, last week raised fuel prices an average of 8.9 per cent.

Brazil, which was Iraq's largest food supplier after the United

States, has lost two markets that in 1989 totalled \$342.9 million for Iraq and \$52.1 million for Kuwait, or a little more than one per cent of total exports.

In neighbouring Argentina the first impact of the Gulf crisis was a 20 per cent increase in petrol prices.

Argentina also announced Tuesday it was putting its plans to deregulate the oil industry on hold.

The Peronist government said it would renegotiate the production rights owned by state oil company YPF for some older oilfields it had awarded to private companies for \$252 million.

"We cannot sell our oil at a price set before the present situation in the Mideast," said Public Works and Services Ministers Jose Dromi.

The Argentine foreign ministry said the crisis dashed hope of signing a trade agreement with Iraq this year which would have been worth \$60 million annually to Argentina.

If there is gloom in large oil-importing countries such as Brazil, there is a cautious sense of relief in oil exporting nations such as Venezuela, Ecuador and Mexico.

Petroleos Mexicanos (Pemex) Director Francisco Rojas said last week that Mexico would earn an extra \$4.38 billion a year in oil export revenues based on the conservative estimate of prices staying at \$20.50 a barrel.

Mexico says it will put aside any oil windfall to protect itself from the possibility of higher world interest rates.

"Mexico is going to put aside any additional income to solve any contingency that might arise," said an official.

The official, who declined to be named, said higher interest rates could quickly offset the increased oil revenues because of Mexico's \$93 billion foreign debt.

For Ecuador, the higher oil price should generate more revenue to give the country, an OPEC member, more bargaining power in talks now under way on renegotiating its \$11.2 billion foreign debt, financial sources said.

In nations like Brazil and Chile which rely upon growing diversification of exports, some economists predict the Gulf crisis could draw the United States into a recession, throwing the Latin American nations' sales abroad into a tailspin.

Polish firm predicts difficult future selloffs

WARSAW (R) — Polish Overseas Traders Universal S.A., fresh from the country's biggest share flotation offer to date, has said its sale was a success but large-scale privatisation of the economy would prove more difficult.

Universal's development manager, Tomasz Lukaszewicz, cited public ignorance, shortage of domestic capital and lack of legislation as obstacles facing the government in its drive to privatise faster than any other country.

"Some people still don't understand what a share is and what a bond is," Lukaszewicz said in an interview. "It needs a lot of work from the government side... it needs an act of clarifying what a security is, what a stock exchange is, how it should function and so on."

He said capital in Poland would be sufficient for privatising an initial 10 large firms — the government's target for 1990 — but after that special credits might be needed.

Universal plans to use its new capital to invest in other firms which are in the process of privatising and to boost its own trading operations and diversify into such

new areas as transport and real estate.

Lukaszewicz said the firm had profits of 250 billion zloties (\$26.3 million) in the first half of 1990. Giving the first detailed results of the Universal sell-off which ended earlier this month, Lukaszewicz said 13 foreign investors had put \$100,000 or more each into Universal.

Of the firm's enlarged capital of 150 billion zloties (16 million), 35 per cent would be owned by the Polish state or state-owned firms and 65 per cent by private investors — 30 per cent by foreigners and 35 per cent by Poles.

The biggest stake — 945,200 shares or 6.3 per cent — belongs to a British firm, Ullman Shore. Other institutional investors from Britain, France, Switzerland, Denmark and the United States are among the biggest foreign shareholders.

Allocations for both Polish and foreign investors were oversubscribed as buyers queued at Universal's Warsaw headquarters in the final week of the sale. In both cases, Universal negotiated with the biggest subscribers to trim their holdings.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, August 16, 1990
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell		Buy	Sell
U.S. dollar	656.0	660.0	French franc	124.8	125.5
Pound Sterling	1245.9	1253.4	Japanese yen (for 100)	443.4	446.1
Deutschmark	419.2	421.7	Dutch guilder	372.0	374.2
Swiss franc	502.3	505.5	Swedish crown	113.7	114.4
			Italian lira (for 100)	57.2	57.5
			Belgian franc (for 10)	204.7	205.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

	One Sterling	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.9130/40	Canadian dollar
	1.1470/80	Deutschemark
	1.5515/20	Dutch guilder
	1.7490/7500	Swiss franc
	1.2863/75	French franc
	31.91/96	Belgian franc
	5.2100/50	Italian lire
	1144/1145	Japanese yen
	147.55/65	Swedish crown
	5.7265/7315	Norwegian crowns
	6.0305/55	Danish crowns
	5.9415/65	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	410.25/411.25	

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Al Fihawi — Farid
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in
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Al Fihawi — Farid
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PLAZA

Amr Dlab
in
Al Afarit (THE DEVILS)
(Arabic)

Performances: 12:30, 3:3

South Africa's black factional war engulfs Soweto for 2nd day

SOWETO, South Africa (R) — Factional war engulfed Soweto Friday in the second day of bloody battles between Zulus and supporters of the African National Congress (ANC).

Police smothered the centre of the black township with tear gas to curb fresh spear and gun battles on streets where 22 people have been killed since Thursday. "The fighting is all through central areas of Soweto," said police spokesman Colonel Tienie Halgryn. "I can't confine reports of the fighting to a single area anymore."

The new battles between mainly Xhosa followers of ANC Deputy President Nelson Mandela and Zulu migrant workers loyal to the politically conservative Inkatha Movement of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe followed crisis talks Thursday between Mandela and President F.W. de Klerk.

"Why do we slaughter each other like beasts?" Mandela asked South Africa's blacks of the fighting which this week has killed more than 160 people in

clashes south of Johannesburg. Police trying to convene emergency peace talks between local leaders of the warring factions said the meeting would not take place before Saturday. They gave no reason.

Halgryn said 22 people had been killed in Soweto, the country's largest township, since political and tribal unrest spread there from other townships on Thursday morning.

Halgryn said the latest casualty was a black youth shot dead by police trying to put down black-against-black fighting outside a hostel for migrant Zulu workers in the Zondi area.

At the scene, residents said the youth was a 13-year-old member of Mandela's Xhosa tribe. Police in the Zondi, West Jabavu and Nancefield districts fired volley after volley of tear gas, trying to stop blacks chanting war cries from slashing and stabbing at each other with long knives, axes and spears.

Youths fearful of attack by Zulu "impis" (war parties) barri-

caded streets with stones and burning tyres.

"The people are staying home in case the Zulus attack," said a man watching firemen trying to douse a blazing bus that had been pushed into the road as a barricade.

Residents estimated tens of thousands of Soweto's two million residents stayed at home, afraid of venturing out into the streets. Many schools stayed empty for a second day.

Helmets riot police patrolling in armoured cars were supported by white plainclothes officers carrying shotguns.

In West Jabavu, residents were angry, pointing to a house adjoining the hostel where they said an old woman had been killed overnight. Police later fired tear gas to disperse angry mobs.

Club-carrying youths stood guard over the bludgeoned corpses of two black men in their 30s by a railway track a short distance away at Naledi Extension.

Witnesses reported two other

bodies in Soweto's Nancefield district near a Zulu hostel.

The hostels are grim, single-sex barracks that house Zulus from Natal province and the KwaZulu tribal homeland who work in and around Johannesburg, the country's industrial capital.

Their opponents are largely their neighbours, local people living in squatter camps or rudimentary township bungalows.

The ANC says police favour Inkatha and convince at the violence to weaken the ANC, the main anti-apartheid movement, and to divide blacks on tribal lines. Police deny this.

In a late-night crisis meeting Thursday in Soweto, Mandela met Law and Order Minister Adriaan Vlok and agreed to set up a "peace forum" at the township's main police station.

The ANC-Inkatha conflict has spilled over this week to the Johannesburg area from Natal province where 4,000 people have died in four years of fighting.

Liberian sides agree to meet

MONROVIA, Liberia (AP) — Liberia's rival rebel factions and a representative of President Samuel Doe have agreed to meet to try to bring an end to the West African nation's bloody civil war, sources said.

Government sources in Gambia's capital of Banjul said a meeting was being arranged between two rebel factions and a Doe envoy.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prince Johnson and rival rebel leader Charles Taylor were expected to attend talks Monday in Banjul.

Word of that meeting could lead to further delays in the deployment of a West African force that intends to halt the fighting.

Taylor's departure for the talks was delayed when he suffered minor injuries in an auto accident as he prepared to leave, Tom Woewiyu, Taylor's spokesman and defence minister, said Friday.

The accident was not serious, but Taylor returned to the Firestone rubber plantation clinic for treatment and to arrange new transport, Woewiyu said from Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The plantation is 56 kilometres southeast of Monrovia.

Woewiyu did not say when Taylor would leave Liberia for Banjul.

Nigerian and Guinean troops are mobilising in Freetown, Sierra Leone, with soldiers from Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone and Togo to form a force of more than 2,500 men.

The United States says it will not intervene militarily to end the conflict in Liberia, established in 1847 by freed American slaves.

In Washington, Defence Department spokesman Pete Williams said the Liberian capital of Monrovia was relatively quiet Thursday.

He said the U.S. embassy was being guarded by 66 Marines, down from 225 earlier in the week when street battles raged around the diplomatic compounds.

Williams said about 344 Indian nationals were evacuated from the U.S. embassy compound Thursday and brought to the USS Saipan — a U.S. warship off the Liberian coast — before departing for Freetown.

The Marines had previously evacuated 334 people, including 62 U.S. government workers and 49 private U.S. citizens, he said. The rest were foreign nationals.

A leading Nigerian newspaper, the Guardian, reported Thursday morning that Taylor's rebels shot two Nigerian citizens to death inside their Monrovia embassy during the past week. The report was certain to step up pressure on Nigeria's military government to speed up intervention.

Senior Nigerian government officials have said Taylor will pay for any attacks on Nigerians. Taylor spokesman Tom Woewiyu says Nigeria and Guinea, whose leaders are friends of Doe, are trying to use the West African force as a cover to get troops into Liberia to bolster the besieged president.

Johnson controls most of the capital and Taylor the rest of the country of 2.3 million people. But Doe — backed by government troops — has refused to leave the presidential mansion.

"We want peace, we want peace," chanted a crowd as Johnson visited rebel-controlled sections of downtown Monrovia and nearby Bushrod Island Thursday.

The Taylor-led rebels claimed Tuesday that they had killed Johnson.

"Here I am," Johnson said, waving at the crowd estimated in the tens of thousands. "Do you believe I'm dead?"

"No, No," the crowd replied, dancing, singing and cheering.

Johnson took a guitar from one of his followers and strummed along as he led the crowd in a rendition of We Shall Overcome.

Insurgents of Taylor's National Patriotic Front invaded from Ivory Coast on Dec. 24 to oust what they called Doe's corrupt government.

Fighting between Taylor, a former Doe aide accused of embezzlement, and a splinter group led by former army officer Johnson has prolonged the conflict.

The war has taken the heaviest toll on civilians, who make up most of the estimated 5,000 people killed in the fighting.

The war has become a tribal conflict with rebels killing civilians of Doe's Krahn tribe and Mandingos accused of supporting him. Government soldiers have slaughtered people of the Gio and Mano tribes, to which most rebels belong.

Barricades burn, bodies pile up in Soweto

SOWETO (R) — The man lay curled up as if sleeping, his freshly bludgeoned corpse guarded by a group of early black South African teenagers carrying sticks and knives.

A breeze fluttered pages of newspaper stuck clumsily to the man's bloodied head, hiding his face from a line of Soweto township residents queuing to view the corpse atop a railway embankment.

At the foot of the embankment lay a second battered body.

Neither the youths nor the queue of silent, grim-faced men and women would describe what had happened.

"Write the truth," a club-wielding youth hissed at a Reuters correspondent. The police and the press were the same, he muttered.

The scene typified the mix of anger, fear and confusion gripping the township's largest township after political and tribal violence spread to Soweto from other black settlements around Johannesburg.

More than 160 people have been killed this week in spear and gun battles between factions supporting and opposing anti-apartheid leader Nelson Mandela.

A tour of the township Friday showed that the violence was localised in areas around hostels used by Zulu migrant workers from Natal province who are opposed to Mandela's African National Congress (ANC).

The grim, single-sex barracks hostels are dotted all over the smog-filled township of spartan bungalow houses and usually adjoin train stations, where there is often tension between residents travelling to work and Zulus.

On a rubble-strewn street men and women looked on resignedly as firemen doused flames in a commandeered bus that had been set alight and used as a barricade.

"We can't go to work today. They burn the buses. Other buses won't come," said a man standing with his arms folded.

Several streets away beside Mapeta Hostel in the West Jabavu district, an angry, sullen crowd gathered outside a house, which had had its windows smashed in and front room set alight.

Residents said the fire was caused by tear gas canisters fired into the house by police Thursday. They accused the hostel workers of killing an old woman overnight in a house down the street.

"They came here, the Zulus. They killed an old woman, a grandmother," said a middle-aged man, stuttering and choking with anger.

"This bloody, bloody..." he kept saying, shaking his head.

"What's the use of having the police if they don't protect the people," said a younger man.

"The funniest thing is the police were here at the time. They are supporting these guys."

Youth carrying hammers, axes and long nightsticks' sticks called knobkerries patrolled up and down the pavement.

Minutes later heavily-armed police fired tear gas into the hostel and at the crowd outside. People ran in all directions and regrouped at a distance.

Young white policemen in jeans and sweatshirts patrolled the station with pump-action shotguns.

Collapsing E. German coalition threatens unification process

EAST BERLIN (R) — East Germany's government collapse threatened to open war Friday, with the key Social Democrats (SPD) threatening to block a vital treaty on German unification in revenge for the firing of two of their ministers.

SPD leader Wolfgang Thierse, pronouncing the coalition dead, said his party would vote against the treaty on political and legal aspects of unity in its present form.

"If the treaty is not significantly improved, will have no choice but to turn it down," Thierse told RTL television.

The SPD's parliamentary caucus meets Sunday and looks set to follow the leadership recommendation to quit the coalition.

Christian Democratic (CDU) Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere needs the SPD to reach the two-thirds parliamentary majority required to approve both the treaty and East Berlin's accession to Bonn.

He has to hope that despite Thierse's threats the SPD's commitment to speedy unification will push the motions through.

Just when politicians are clamouring to speed up unity to rescue East Germany's decrepit economy, the government crisis is bringing the process to a grinding halt.

Newspapers Friday accused East German political leaders of being bungling amateurs, saying the squabbling was an irresponsible distraction from real issues.

"Perhaps people who liken Lothar de Maiziere's cabinet to

an amateur dramatics society are not so wide of the mark," the communist daily Neues Deutschland said.

East Germans have grown increasingly disillusioned with their democratic government since the country's first free election in March ended 40 years of Communist rule.

"Since the beginning of the month, the man (De Maiziere) who called himself East German's lawyer seems to have sunk to being a stage hand in a dirty electioneering stage show," the top-circulation Junge Welt said.

De Maiziere sacked SPD Finance Minister Walter Romberg and Agriculture Minister Peter Pollack, an SPD associate, Wednesday, accusing them of incompetence.

Two further ministers, for justice and economics, resigned. Newspapers said that if incompetence were really the yardstick for the dismissals, then De Maiziere should have axed several more cabinet members.

Unemployment is forecast to reach two million, a quarter of the workforce, by the end of the year. Whole sectors of industry are expected to close.

The CDU and SPD agree swift unification is the only hope for stopping the rot, but their attempts to set a timetable have ended in near-farical disaster.

The CDU wants to declare formal accession to West Germany in mid-October, with All-German parliamentary elections on Dec. 2. The SPD wants accession even earlier, but De Maiziere has said this is out of the question.

Meanwhile the Soviet and West German foreign ministers met Friday to discuss final preparations for German unity — a move which could be hastened by the collapse of East Berlin's coalition government.

Eduard Shevardnadze and Hans-Dietrich Genscher were expected to discuss a treaty on relations between Moscow and the new German state and an agreement on gradual withdrawal of Moscow's 360,000 troops from East Germany.

The talks were called ahead of a "two plus four" group meeting in Moscow on Sept. 12, which will probably seal Germany's security status in Europe with a final declaration.

The "two plus four" group embraces the foreign ministers of the two German states and the four World War II allies — the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France — which retain special rights in Germany under occupation agreements.

Before his meeting with the Soviet minister, Genscher underlined the importance of the "two plus four" talks, telling reporters: "We will do everything to ensure that we keep to Sep. 12 as the final date for conclusion so that external matters have no effect (on unification)."

Moscow has argued throughout that external issues should be settled before unification.

The Soviet Union cleared the greatest obstacle last month when it agreed to Western demands that a united Germany be part of the NATO alliance. But several complex issues are unresolved.

Sri Lankan troops thwart rebel attacks

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lankan troops, trying to stem a wave of massacres among the country's ethnic and religious communities, killed 20 Tamil separatists who were on their way to attack a Muslim village, military sources said Friday.

Troops foiled several other attempts by Tamil rebels to attack Sinhalese and Muslim villages in the north and east, the sources said. These reports could not be independently confirmed.

"We are now coming to grips with the situation and devising various methods to battle this menace. They are not taking us by surprise any more," a military officer said.

Military authorities say members of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), fighting to get their own homeland, have killed hundreds of Muslim and Sinhalese villagers this month. Rebel leaders have denied the charge.

Muslim civilians were given weapons this week to protect their villages from rebel attacks. Hundreds of civil "home guard" units have been armed.

Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne said Thursday that Tamil civilians would be armed to protect their villages from reprisal attacks by angered Muslims.

Wijeratne has said the Tigers are trying to disperse the Sri Lankan forces so that any attack on the north, the rebels' main stronghold, will be diluted.

Political analysts said Muslims are targets because they do not support the rebel call for the division of Sri Lanka.

The ethnic war in Sri Lanka has claimed 3,350 lives since fighting resumed nine weeks ago, making it the deadliest phase in the 7-year-old civil war, according to a classified military document and government officials.

The officials, who spoke Thursday on condition of anonymity, said at least 2,000 civilians died in the fighting.

The war has driven at least 500,000 people from their homes into government relief camps.

The document, made available to the Associated Press, said at least 566 members of the security forces died in clashes with Tamil guerrillas. Among them were 242 soldiers and 297 policemen. At least 461 others were missed and presumed dead.

Tamil separatists resumed fighting the Sinhalese-dominated government on June 11 after a 13-month ceasefire.

Before the war resumed in June, a total of 13,000 people had died in the civil strife, which began in 1983.

The government's count of Tamil guerrillas killed in the latest phase of violence was 785. But Defence Secretary Gen. Cyril Ranatunge said earlier he believed many more were killed.

"That's the official toll, but we believe the rebels have lost at least 2,000 fighters," Ranatunge said.

Government officials said at least 2,000 civilians died in the fighting since June 11 in clashes between ethnic groups, in aerial attacks and those caught in the cross fire.

Most of the casualties occurred in the north and the east, strongholds of the Tamil rebels. Most of the victims were either Tamils or Muslims.

Muslims, who make up 7 per cent of Sri Lanka's 16 million people, claim neutrality in the war, but Tamil rebels accuse them of siding with the government.

Last Saturday, Tamil guerrillas massacred Muslim men, women and children in five fishing villages. Government officials originally said 173 people died, but later reduced the count to 127.

On Aug. 3, Tamil gunmen raided another eastern village and massacred 140 Muslims in two mosques, setting off a chain of vengeance killings.

Caretaker Prime Minister Gnanapavan Jayaratne stayed away from Friday's anniversary, preferring to remain in his home province of Jaffna, but the event was a perfect opportunity for Zia's son Ejaz ul Haq.

Thousands mark Zia's death anniversary

ISLAMABAD (R) — Tens of thousands of Pakistanis descended on Islamabad Friday to mark the second anniversary of the death of former President Mohammad Zia ul Haq and watch his son launch himself on a political career.

Buses brought people sometimes hundreds of kilometres to Islamabad's Faisal Mosque where General Zia was buried at a tumultuous funeral three days after his plane plunged to the ground and burst into flames on Aug. 17, 1988.

"I liked Zia very much because of his policies," said Mohammad Anwar Mughal as he waited his turn to file through the flower-strewn octagonal mausoleum where Zia was buried in front of the mosque. He had come from Sialkot near the Indian border.

"He was a sincere and good leader of Pakistan," he said as the crowd chanted "man of faith, man of truth — Zia ul Haq."

Many of the people waiting with Mughal were Afghan refugees who lionise Zia as the man who backed their battle against the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan with guns and money.

Huge portraits of Zia flanked every entry to Pakistan's political capital along with banners praising his 11-year rule that began when he toppled Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto in 1977.

Last week Bhutto's daughter Benazir was swept from power herself when President Ghulam Ishaq Khan dismissed her government for corruption and ordered fresh polls.

Caretaker Prime Minister Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi stayed away from Friday's anniversary, preferring to remain in his home province of Sindh, but the event was a perfect opportunity for Zia's son Ejaz ul Haq.

Increasing the atmospheric level of carbon dioxide by one part per million requires the addition of 2.13 billion tonnes of carbon to the air. Much of this occurs through the burning of fossil fuels like coal and oil.

Other greenhouse gases are much less common. — Methane concentrations rose by 12 parts per billion per year, although officials said this growth rate may have declined slightly.

— Nitrous oxide increased at a rate of 0.7 parts per billion per year.

— CFC-11 was rising at 10 parts per trillion, while the rate for CFC-12 was 16 parts per trillion. Both of these chemicals are chlorofluorocarbons, used in refrigeration and other industrial processes. These chemicals also can damage the Earth's protective ozone layer. An international agreement has been signed to reduce their use.

Greenhouse gases reportedly rising

WASHINGTON (AP) — The gas most often implicated in the threat of global warming seems to be increasing faster than in past years, says a report issued Thursday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The concentration of carbon dioxide in the air increased at an average rate of 1.71 parts per million over the last four years, said NOAA's Dr. Pieter Tans.

That is somewhat higher than the 1.5 parts per million rise reported in much of the 1980s. And in the 1960s the increase was reported at only 0.7 parts per million annually.

"The (carbon dioxide) increase varies a lot from year to year. One year it can change very little, and the next year it makes up for the slow increase," Tans said in a telephone interview. "At the moment it seems to be increasing fairly fast."

Concentrations of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, CFC-11 and CFC-12 are monitored by NOAA's Climate Monitoring and Diagnostics Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado.

The increasing amounts of these gases in the air has caused concern in recent years. The gases are produced by industrial processes, heating and other human activities as well as some natural sources.

Many scientists worry that the gases will act somewhat like a greenhouse, causing Earth to overheat.

The short-wave radiation from sun that warms the Earth passes through them easily, but they can trap the longer wave radiation from Earth that normally cools the planet and keeps overall temperatures in balance.

Global concentrations of carbon dioxide, the most common of the so-called greenhouse gases, have increased by about 25 per cent since the mid-1800s, to just over 350 parts per million.

However, scientists disagree over whether any global heating

COLUMN

6-year-old boy beats chess master

LONDON (R) — A six-year-old British boy, who began playing chess two years ago, defeated American master Orest Popovych in a publicity match Thursday, becoming the youngest player in the history of the game to defeat a master. It took George Hassapis 10 minutes and 19 moves to dismiss Popovych, a World Chess Federation master and United States Chess Federation life master. In a game played on a giant board on the street at London's Marble Arch intersection. The publicity game was played in advance of the Lloyd's Bank Masters, Britain's premier chess event. Popovych is known for having lost to the legendary Bobby Fischer in 1956.

Brando's son freed on bail

LOS ANGELES (R) — Christian Brando, the 32-year-old son of actor Marlon Brando, walked out of jail after his father put up his \$4 million Hollywood mansion as bail collateral. Christian, who is charged with murder in the shooting death of his half-sister Cheyenne's boyfriend, Dag Drolak, was collected from the gray, four-story Los Angeles County Jail by his father and half-brother, Mike. Christian, a welder and part-time actor, paused briefly to speak to reporters, saying, "I am just going to go home and try to straighten this thing out."

Marlon Brando, 62, standing with his arm around Christian's shoulders, said his son's release was "a moment I have long looked forward to." Christian is due back in court on Sept. 14 for pretrial motions. He has pleaded not guilty to murder and jury selection in the case is set to begin on Oct. 9.

The Soviet Union cleared the greatest obstacle last month when it agreed to Western demands that a united Germany be part of the NATO alliance. But several complex issues are unresolved.

Government officials said at least 2,000 civilians died in the fighting since June 11 in clashes between ethnic groups, in aerial attacks and those caught in the cross fire.

Most of the casualties occurred in the north and the east, strongholds of the Tamil rebels. Most of the victims were either Tamils or Muslims.

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